

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING PASTOR EL-YATEEM

HON. MICHAEL M. McMAHON

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 11, 2009

Mr. McMAHON. Madam Speaker, I am here to pay tribute to a religious leader from my district who is a pillar of our community.

Pastor Khader El-Yateem was born in Beit Jala, a town in the West Bank of Palestine. In 1968, after his graduation from high school, he studied at the Bethlehem Bible College, graduated with a Diploma in Theology, and proceeded to study at the Evangelical Theological Seminary in Cairo, Egypt, where he received his B.A. degree. He was invited by the ELCA to work as a mission developer among the Arab and Middle Eastern community in the United States. He studied at the Lutheran Theological Seminary, Philadelphia, where he graduated with a Master of Divinity degree.

In February 1999, Pastor El-Yateem was called by the Division for Outreach to start the Salam Arabic Lutheran Church in Brooklyn, which became the first official Arabic Lutheran Church in North America. Civic leaders within the Bay Ridge community requested his assistance in October 2000, to help establish a committee to bring the Christian, Jewish and Arabic communities together in a pledge to live in peace. He opened his church to all and successfully helped the committee bring the various groups together. The inter-faith dialogue continues with great success. This endeavor prompted Pastor El-Yateem to ask District Attorney, Charles Hynes to co-chair a Brooklyn wide Unity Task Force, which has also been successful in bringing together various ethnic and religious groups within the borough.

Pastor El-Yateem continues to contribute to the spiritual well being of our community with the support of his lovely wife Grace and children Rowan, Janette, Naim and Isabelle.

I am honored by the work Pastor El-Yateem carries out in my district and for the people of Brooklyn. I congratulate him and his family for the work they have done to make a stronger community.

DUNEDIN, FLORIDA NAMED FLORIDA CITY OF EXCELLENCE

HON. C. W. BILL YOUNG

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 11, 2009

Mr. YOUNG of Florida. Madam Speaker, The Florida League of Cities has named the city of Dunedin, which I have the privilege to represent, as its 2008 City of Excellence.

The League of Cities honored the City of Dunedin for its commitment to public service by achieving the highest standards of city leadership, citizen outreach and involvement, and the development of innovative programs.

Dunedin, a small town feeling city of 37,000, has done all that and more.

Under the leadership of Mayor Bob Hackworth, Vice Mayor Julie Ward Bujalski, Commissioner Deborah Kynes, Commissioner Julie Scales, and Commissioner Dave Eggers, the City of Dunedin has created a family friendly, business friendly, and environmental friendly community along Florida's Gulf Coast. This latest honor is the result of years of hard work by the city, by its many community organizations, and by its residents. Dunedin is home to Dr. Beach's top rated "America's Beach", it is on CNN's list of Best Places to Retire, it has been ranked as a top place for walkers, and it is America's first Purple Heart City.

Dunedin has great parks, great schools, great programs, and most importantly great people. The city government can only do so much without the commitment of the people they represent to create a great place to live, to work, to play, and to raise their families.

Madam Speaker, it is my hope that my colleagues join me in congratulating the people of Dunedin, Florida, their elected leadership, their city staff, the many fine organizations represented by the Dunedin Council of Organizations and the residents themselves for what we have long known, that Dunedin is a Florida City of Excellence.

CELEBRATING THE ALEXANDRIA MARDI GRAS ASSOCIATION

HON. RODNEY ALEXANDER

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 11, 2009

Mr. ALEXANDER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the Alexandria Mardi Gras Association (AMGA) for enhancing economic development and quality of life by unifying and celebrating Louisiana's interests each year.

On March 3, 1994, the 295th Anniversary of the Founding of Louisiana by Iberville, the AMGA was officially established to ensure Alexandria Mardi Gras is among the best cultural and social events in Central Louisiana.

The goal of Alexandria Mardi Gras, or Mardi Gras au Coeur de la Louisiana, which means Mardi Gras in the Heart of Central Louisiana, is to exemplify unity and cohesiveness through family-friendly festivities.

As Mardi Gras in the heart of Louisiana kicks off its 16th year, the goal is truly illustrated through numerous cultural events that appeal to all cross sections of the community, state, and region, while helping stimulate the economy.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in commending the AMGA for its continued hard work and dedication to ensure that Mardi Gras in Central Louisiana retains the charm and spirit of the first official celebration 16 years prior.

TRIBUTE TO BRIGIT STORHOFF

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 11, 2009

Mr. LATHAM. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the excellence in education in the 4th Congressional District of Iowa, and to specifically congratulate Brigit Storhoff of Decorah Community School District, who earned the National Board Certification—the highest level of certification in the teaching profession.

National Board Certification is a voluntary assessment program designed to recognize and reward great teachers. National Board Certified Teachers (NBCTs) have successfully demonstrated advanced teaching knowledge, skills and practices. Certification is achieved through a rigorous, performance-based assessment that typically takes one to three years to complete. Certification is offered in 25 different subjects, covering 97 percent of the subjects taught in K–12 schools.

I congratulate Brigit Storhoff on her well-deserved certification, and I'm certain that she will continue to touch the lives of many youth in her community. It is a great honor to represent Brigit in the United States Congress, and I wish her continued success.

HONORING THE NAACP ON ITS 100TH ANNIVERSARY

SPEECH OF

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 10, 2009

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People on its 100th Anniversary. In 1909 the founders of the NAACP came together with the purpose of promoting the rights guaranteed under the 13th, 14th, and 15th Amendments to the Constitution.

Today, the NAACP works to ensure that all individuals have equal rights and to end racial hatred and discrimination. The NAACP has influenced some of the greatest civil rights victories of the last century, including: the integration of our nation's schools and the Brown v. Board decision; the Voting Rights Act; striking down segregation; and the Equal Employment Opportunity Act.

It is particularly notable that this year's 100th anniversary also marks the first time in the history of the United States that we have an African-American President. The NAACP helped pave the way for this landmark achievement, and continues to lay the groundwork for future accomplishments in minority communities.

Despite the advancements of the past 100 years under the leadership of the NAACP, there is still much work to be done. The

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

NAACP continues to promote new ideas and leadership in the fields of educational and employment opportunities, ending health care disparities, and economic empowerment.

The NAACP instilled in America a sense of consciousness, and it continues to do so today. I commend the NAACP on this anniversary and the thousands of individuals who continue to fight for equality and justice.

RECOGNIZING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.'S VISIT TO INDIA

SPEECH OF

HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 10, 2009

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, it is my distinct honor to join my friend and colleague Representative JOHN LEWIS in support of H. Res. 134. This resolution commemorates the fiftieth anniversary of the Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s visit to India, and the role played by the revered leader of Indian independence Mahatma Gandhi—and those who followed in his footsteps—in influencing Dr. King's nonviolent approach to achieving social and political justice. I embrace this opportunity to look back at the men and the movement which pressed this nation forward in its journey towards the fulfillment of our founders' creed, and look forward as the march toward opportunity, justice, and freedom for all continues.

When Dr. King left for India in February 1959, he was just beginning to make his mark as a leader of the national movement for civil rights. He had organized the successful boycott of Montgomery, Alabama's public transportation system in 1955, and founded the Southern Christian Leadership Conference two years later. His burgeoning success had provided his nonviolent movement with the momentum and potential to become a truly powerful force in the pursuit of equal rights for all Americans. This momentum became entrenched during Dr. King's trip to India, where his immersion in the world of Mahatma Gandhi's own nonviolent success led King to commit himself in his philosophical entirety to the principle of meeting hate and injustice with persistent nonviolence.

Though Gandhi had passed away eleven years prior to Dr. King's journey, King was no less attentive to the followers of the great shanti sena—the “nonviolent army” that Gandhi led in his successful effort to free his country from the grasp of colonialism. He encountered those who had stood with Gandhi through the long, arduous struggle for India's sovereignty, and came to deeply understand the necessary commitment and purpose of which believers in nonviolence must never lose sight. Dr. King came to believe that if India can assert its independence from the bonds of the British Empire without violence, then the United States of America can achieve racial equality with the same approach. He took the lessons of a people half a world away and applied them to the struggle of his own nation, illustrating that a righteous cause pursued by means which justify its ends holds universal promise. Perhaps it is best articulated by Dr. King himself: “As I delved deeper

into the philosophy of Gandhi, my skepticism concerning the power of love gradually diminished, and I came to see for the first time its potency in the area of social reform.”

Now, with the passage of five decades, let us commemorate this historic journey of our beloved Dr. King, focusing on the lessons it taught him and the strength it provided him as he met the challenges of his day. Let us not only remember the past, but rather carry its lessons into a brighter future of promise and freedom. I once again express my heartfelt appreciation for Congressman LEWIS, a man whose own journey and career follow closely the principles and vision laid out by these two men, and urge all my colleagues to take this opportunity to honor those who refuse to allow the forces of hate and oppression to provoke them to lose sight of their vision for justice by embracing the nonviolent path.

DTV DELAY ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 4, 2009

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to bring attention to the impending transition our nation will be facing on their television broadcasts from analog to digital. Despite efforts that have been made by the government to advise the public as to what steps would be necessary to prepare for the transition such as continuous advisory commercials and converter box coupons, there are still those who are not prepared.

Whether it is because of a lack of accessibility to applying for the coupons or a delay in receiving the coupons, no one should be left “in the dark” when the transition occurs. The government to this point has been doing what it can to help those upon whom this transition is being forced by offering coupons to offset the cost of the converter boxes needed to continue receiving television broadcasts. Nonetheless, with the transition date of February 17, 2009, only a few days away, there are still more than 2 million households that are on a government waiting list to receive assistance in purchasing the converter boxes.

It is for this reason that I am urging Members to support the DTV Delay Act, S. 352, sponsored by Senator JOHN D. ROCKEFELLER, which seeks to delay the transition date from February 17, 2009 to June 13, 2009 and it would also extend the deadline of applying for government converter box coupons to July 31, 2009, provided that funding is available. This bill would also provide extra time for those who have not applied or received converter box coupons to still do so. Although this bill would not prevent stations from transitioning from analog to digital and letting others use the recovered air waves, it does allow for these same analog channels to have an extension in their broadcasting license on analog channels thus allowing people to continue viewing television broadcasts with their regular antennas.

NATIONAL SILVER ALERT ACT OF 2009

SPEECH OF

HON. CANDICE S. MILLER

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 20, 2009

Mrs. MILLER of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 632, the National Silver Alert Act.

This legislation will provide federal grants to states to assist them in the development or improvement of an alert system for seniors.

I believe that a society can be judged by the compassion it shows to the most vulnerable in that society. And in America those are our children and our seniors.

We all know that our society is aging and many in our community are facing the challenges posed by dealing with aging parents and loved ones.

We worry about the safety of our seniors, particularly those who suffer from either Alzheimers or dementia. And our first concern is to ensure that our loved ones get the care they need.

Many times those seniors when going about everyday tasks like going to the store or walking their dog can wander or drive off and become lost.

Statistics show that as many as 60% of patients with Alzheimers or dementia will wander at some point during their illness. Those same statistics also show that if they are not found within the first 24 hours that as many as 50% will suffer serious injury or death.

That is enough to elicit serious concern from any loved one or care provider.

We have experienced similar issues with young children who wander away or are taken by someone.

To combat that problem we established the Amber Alert system.

Amber Alert ensures that the information concerning that child is shared with law enforcement and with the general public through the media and signs along our roadways.

We have all seen these reports when they are issued and we all keep an extra keen eye to provide any assistance we can to return those children to safety.

The Amber Alert System works and it works well.

Our seniors deserve no less support, particularly those suffering from Alzheimers or dementia.

They too often can become confused and travel far distances or to areas of danger with little ability to find their way home.

That is why I strongly support the National Silver Alert Act. I am hopeful that we can quickly pass this important legislation and urge all of my colleagues to support this measure.

HONORING ANDREW SHEPARD

HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 11, 2009

Ms. WOOLSEY. Madam Speaker, I rise with sadness today to honor my friend Andrew Shepard who passed away on January 20, 2009, in Santa Rosa, California. Andy was a

longtime executive with Exchange Bank who devoted himself to his family, his community, and his fly fishing.

Born in Chicago in 1924, Andy grew up in Omaha, Nebraska, and Pebble Beach, California. He joined the Army in 1943 and distinguished himself fighting in France where he won numerous honors including the Combat Infantryman's Badge 1st Award and the Bronze Star. After his discharge in 1946, Andy attended Stanford University, graduating in 1949 with a degree in Economics. He soon joined Exchange Bank as a teller, working his way up to CEO in a career that spanned 60 years.

By 1969, Andy was appointed CEO and President of the bank, a position he held until 1991 when he was named Chairman of the Board. Upon his retirement in 2003, Andy served as Chairman Emeritus and continued to visit his office until a few months ago, despite being debilitated by a bone marrow disorder.

Andy was known as a banker's banker, and his years of leadership at Exchange Bank were marked by solid investments that assured good dividends combined with innovations such as being one of the first banks in the community to introduce ATMs and drive-through tellers. He also set a priority on personable customer and employee relations, which he exemplified with his own ready smile and kind words. During his tenure the bank grew from three offices to 19, with a focus on small account-holders.

But it is his promotion of Exchange Bank's greatest gift to the community—the Frank P. Doyle Scholarships—that truly marked Andy's banking career. The scholarship program, founded by Frank Doyle almost 60 years ago, provides bank dividends for a fund which assists students at Santa Rosa Junior College. Over the years, \$78 million has been awarded to more than 112,000 students. Unfortunately, the bank has recently had to suspend these dividends, but Andy was confident that, with the bank's long-term stability, they will be restored. He also founded and/or served on the boards of numerous community organizations such as the Community Foundation Sonoma County, Santa Rosa Symphony, Memorial Hospital, Heart Association of the Redwood Empire, and United Way.

Andy also had active leadership roles in two key banking organizations, the California Bankers Association and the American Bankers Association as well as the Independent Bankers of Northern California, the American Institute of Banking and the Conference of State Bank Supervisors. Among his numerous awards are the California Human Development Corporation Aztec Award, Pacific Coast Banking School Hall of Fame, Santa Rosa Junior College Floyd Bailey Award and President's Medallion, and the Junior Chamber of Commerce Boss of the Year.

In 1993, Andy married Mardi Casebolt who shared his passions for golf and fly fishing. Andy was proud of his chairmanship of the Ladies Professional Golf Association and enjoyed his time at a fly fishing lodge he co-founded in Colorado which has been featured on national television fishing shows. In addition to Mardi, Andy is survived by daughters Marcy Lyons and Susan Ball, stepdaughters Debbie Bird and Trece O'Donnell, four grandchildren, and five step grandchildren.

Madam Speaker, Andrew Shepard's life leaves a deep imprint on the banking industry,

on the Sonoma community, and on his many friends and family. He was an inspiration to me, and I will miss him so much. Thank you, Andy, for all your wonderful work and commitment and for your friendship.

HONORING THE NAACP ON ITS
100TH ANNIVERSARY

SPEECH OF

HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 10, 2009

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, this historic year marks both the inauguration of this country's first African-American president, Barack Obama, and the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People's (N.A.A.C.P.) 100th anniversary. February 12, 1909 was chosen as the founding date of the N.A.A.C.P. to commemorate President Abraham Lincoln's 100th birthday, with the hopes of realizing his vision of a unified nation overcoming racial and ethnic hatred and discrimination.

The following decades have seen the emergence of new challenges along America's journey towards equality. Yet the N.A.A.C.P. has persisted and has overcome these obstacles. It currently bears witness to numerous advancements that may have never taken place had it not been for the collective will of the many N.A.A.C.P. members who were willing to fight for what they believed was right.

Without the N.A.A.C.P., it is hard to say where this country would be if it never fought for African-Americans to have increased access to the ballot box.

Without the N.A.A.C.P., it is hard to say where this country would be if it never fought against discrimination—from schooling to housing, and from marriage to employment. After all, the NAACP's Legal department, headed by Charles Hamilton Houston and Thurgood Marshall, undertook a campaign spanning several decades to bring about the reversal of the "separate but equal" doctrine enshrined in the Supreme Court's decision in *Plessy v. Ferguson*.

Without the N.A.A.C.P. and the courageous men and women who risked their lives and livelihoods in order to promote the rights of everyone, regardless of the color of their skin, it is hard to say where this great country would be.

In fact, it is hard to imagine an America without the N.A.A.C.P. My life and the life of this nation would be much different if it were not for the organization's efforts to tear down the barriers of racial discrimination and hatred.

The N.A.A.C.P.'s work, however, is not yet finished. If the last century is any indication though, as long as there is an N.A.A.C.P., all Americans will continue to have a powerful advocate for fairness, equality, and justice.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. SHELLEY BERKLEY

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 11, 2009

Ms. BERKLEY. Madam Speaker, I was unable to vote on rollcall Nos. 54 through 59.

Had I been present, I would have voted "aye" on each.

TRIBUTE TO DAWN REMSBURG

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 11, 2009

Mr. LATHAM. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the excellence in education in the 4th Congressional District of Iowa, and to specifically congratulate Dawn Remsburg of Ames Community School District, who earned the National Board Certification—the highest level of certification in the teaching profession.

National Board Certification is a voluntary assessment program designed to recognize and reward great teachers. National Board Certified Teachers (NBCTs) have successfully demonstrated advanced teaching knowledge, skills and practices. Certification is achieved through a rigorous, performance-based assessment that typically takes one to three years to complete. Certification is offered in 25 different subjects, covering 97 percent of the subjects taught in K–12 schools.

I congratulate Dawn Remsburg on her well-deserved certification, and I'm certain that she will continue to touch the lives of many youth in her community. It is a great honor to represent Dawn in the United States Congress, and I wish her continued success.

EXPRESSING REGRET FOR AUSTRALIA'S LOSSES AS A CONSEQUENCE OF WILDFIRES

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 11, 2009

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to express my deep regret for the loss of life and destruction of property that is occurring in Australia as a consequence of wildfires, and to extend my condolences to the Australian people.

Although wildfires are common during the Australian summer, strong winds, extreme temperatures and dry conditions have combined in recent days to fuel fires, which have ravaged Australia's southern State of Victoria with unparalleled force. Despite the prompt and earnest efforts of rescue crews and firefighters, 181 deaths have been confirmed and, according to yesterday's edition of Australia's Sydney Morning Herald, police fear that as many as 300 people have already passed. More than 750 properties spanning 350,000 hectares of land have been destroyed. Whole communities have been decimated; in the town of Marysville, which was hit by a 60-mile-long fire front, it is feared that 100 of the 519 residents have been killed. Tragically, these numbers are likely to deteriorate further, there being approximately 23 fires which remain uncontained.

Encouragingly, the size of the tragedy has been matched by the size and speed of the response. I extend my sincere appreciation to the emergency rescue crews, firefighters and Australia's Federal and Victorian Governments for their well-coordinated response to this calamity. The loss suffered would have been far

greater were it not for the skill, dedication, compassion and sacrifice of these emergency responders.

I also extend my best wishes to law enforcement authorities as they investigate the causes of this tragedy. Unfortunately, preliminary investigations indicate that some of the fires may have been deliberately lit. I have full confidence that the Australian authorities will bring anyone responsible for this death and destruction to justice, and take such other action as is necessary to minimize the likelihood of future calamities of this nature.

Madam Speaker, the fires that continue to burn in Southeast Australia have caused loss and destruction on a catastrophic scale. The Australian people will truly be in my thoughts and prayers over the coming weeks. I wish the affected communities the very best as they fight to retain and rebuild their lives, and encourage my colleagues to do so as well.

CONGRESSIONAL PAY RAISE

HON. HARRY E. MITCHELL

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 11, 2009

Mr. MITCHELL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to thank Speaker PELOSI for agreeing to block the next scheduled congressional pay raise.

As government acts to cap executive compensation, and as millions of Americans watch their incomes shrink, a pay raise for Members of Congress would have seemed glaringly out of touch.

If we are going to talk the talk of fiscal discipline, we must also walk the walk of self-restraint. The American people are not getting a raise this year. Neither should Congress.

I also wish to thank Dr. RON PAUL and 107 of our colleagues—Republicans and Democrats—who were willing to support H.R. 156, the Stop the Congressional Pay Raise Act. Without the leadership of these Members—so many of them new Members—we may not have taken this important step.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. TIMOTHY V. JOHNSON

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 11, 2009

Mr. JOHNSON of Illinois. Madam Speaker, unfortunately last night, February 10, 2009, I was unable to cast my votes on the Motion to Instruct Conferees on H.R. 1, H. Res. 114, H. Res. 60, H. Res. 143, H. Res. 128, and H. Res. 134 and wish the record to reflect my intentions had I been able to vote.

Had I been present for rollcall No. 54, on the Motion to Instruct Conferees to H.R. 1, stating that the Economic Stimulus bill must be made available for 48 hours before a final vote, I would have voted "aye." It is unbelievable to me that we are more than likely going to be asked to vote on an \$800 billion piece of legislation, that will be drafted behind closed doors, after having less than 24 hours to review it. We owe it to our constituents to take our time with this bill, study it extensively and ensure that the stimulus will actually create jobs.

Had I been present for rollcall No. 55, on suspending the rules and passing H. Res. 114, Supporting the goals and ideals of "National Girls and Women in Sports Day," I would have voted "aye."

Had I been present for rollcall No. 56, on suspending the rules and passing H. Res. 60, Recognizing and commending University of Oklahoma quarterback Sam Bradford for winning the 2008 Heisman Trophy and for his academic and athletic accomplishments, I would have voted "aye."

Had I been present for rollcall No. 57, on a motion to table H. Res. 143, the personal resolution offered by Rep. JOHN CARTER to ensure that Chairman CHARLIE RANGEL steps aside during his ethics investigation, I would have voted "no." Over the past couple of years we have had an unbelievable number of ethics violations by Members of Congress that have deteriorated the trust that the American people had for its Representatives and it is about time we took a hard line on ethics violations. Rep. RANGEL has admitted that he has made mistakes and the House ethics committee is currently investigating him on numerous separate cases. To make clear to the American people that this is a House of integrity, I must ask Chairman RANGEL to step aside until the ethics committee can complete its work.

Had I been present for rollcall No. 58, on suspending the rules and passing H. Res. 128, Honoring Miami University for its 200 years of commitment to extraordinary higher education, I would have voted "aye."

Had I been present for rollcall No. 59, on suspending the rules and passing H. Res. 134, Recognizing the 50th Anniversary of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s visit to India, and the positive influence that the teachings of Mahatma Gandhi had on Dr. King's work during the Civil Rights Movement, I would have voted "aye."

TRIBUTE TO JUDITH MONGIN

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 11, 2009

Mr. LATHAM. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the excellence in education in the 4th Congressional District of Iowa, and to specifically congratulate Judith Mongin of Ames Community School District, who earned the National Board Certification—the highest level of certification in the teaching profession.

National Board Certification is a voluntary assessment program designed to recognize and reward great teachers. National Board Certified Teachers (NBCTs) have successfully demonstrated advanced teaching knowledge, skills and practices. Certification is achieved through a rigorous, performance-based assessment that typically takes one to three years to complete. Certification is offered in 25 different subjects, covering 97 percent of the subjects taught in K–12 schools.

I congratulate Judith Mongin on her well-deserved certification, and I'm certain that she will continue to touch the lives of many youth in her community. It is a great honor to represent Judith in the United States Congress, and I wish her continued success.

CONGRATULATING THE "MISS MADISON"

HON. BARON P. HILL

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 11, 2009

Mr. HILL. Madam Speaker, on Saturday, February 14, 2009, the *Miss Madison* will be crowned the 2008 National Championship Winner by the American Boat Racing Association in Madison, Indiana. I regret that I will not be able to attend the event, but want to reiterate my heartfelt congratulations to those responsible for the win and the entire Madison community.

Miss Madison is a real source of pride to Southern Indiana, and rightfully so. As the only city-owned hydroplane race boat, the *Miss Madison* is not only this year's champion, but holds the record for most consecutive seasons run at 47. *Miss Madison* has been racing since 1961 and can boast of a Turbine Engine motor capable of reaching about 19000 rpms.

Congratulations, again, to the *Miss Madison*, its fans and supporters. I look forward to attending award banquets in the future for this powerful boat.

INTRODUCTION OF THE FREE FLOW OF INFORMATION ACT OF 2009

HON. RICK BOUCHER

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 11, 2009

Mr. BOUCHER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to join with Congressman MIKE PENCE in introducing the Free Flow of Information Act of 2009. We are joined by Judiciary Committee Chairman JOHN CONYERS, Judiciary Committee Vice Ranking Member BOB GOODLATTE, and 35 other original cosponsors.

Our bipartisan legislation provides a privilege in federal court proceedings for reporters to refrain from revealing their confidential sources of information.

The privilege is similar in nature to that currently offered by 36 states and the District of Columbia. Such broad-based support for assuring the confidentiality of journalists' sources at the state level lays bare the glaring lack of similar protection at the federal level.

The ability to assure confidentiality to people who provide information is essential to effective news gathering and reporting on highly sensitive and important issues.

Typically, the best information about corruption in government or misdeeds in a private organization will come from someone on the inside who feels a responsibility to bring the information to light.

But that person has a lot to lose if his or her identity becomes known. In many cases, the person responsible for the corruption or the misdeeds can punish the source through dismissal or more subtle forms of punitive action if the source's identity becomes known.

It is only by assuring anonymity to the source that a reporter can gain access to the information in order to bring it to public scrutiny.

I have long thought that the ability to protect the confidentiality of sources is so essential to

effective news gathering that a privilege to refrain from revealing sources should be interpreted to be extended to reporters by the 1st Amendment.

Unfortunately, to date the 1st Amendment has not been so interpreted. Furthermore, in the past few years more than thirty reporters have been subpoenaed or questioned in federal court proceedings about confidential sources, and several have been handed or threatened with jail sentences. The time has clearly arrived for the Congress to enact this statutory privilege to address the increasing use of subpoenas to extract confidential source information from reporters.

Our legislation sets criteria which must be met to compel the disclosure of information from reporters in any federal criminal or civil matter, with heightened protection for the identities of confidential sources. While extending a broad privilege, we have included some exceptions for instances in which source information can be disclosed where a strong public interest compels the disclosure. Provisions have been incorporated to allow disclosure to prevent imminent death or significant bodily harm, to determine who has disclosed trade secrets or personal health or personal financial information in violation of law, and to assure that national security interests are protected.

An exception to the privilege will only apply if the court determines that the public interest in disclosing the information outweighs the public interest in the gathering and dissemination of news and information.

The bill is a carefully constructed measure which will provide a broad new and much needed privilege for reporters to refrain from revealing confidential sources.

The measure protects the public's right to know, and its passage should be a priority in this Congress. The measure we are reintroducing today is identical to the measure which passed the House in 2007 by a large, bipartisan majority of 398 to 21.

I want to commend MIKE PENCE who has devoted substantial personal time and attention to this effort.

He has done much to bring the need for the privilege to public attention, and he is a highly effective advocate for the cause.

It was a pleasure coauthoring a similar bill with MIKE in the last two Congresses and in writing with him the bill we are introducing today.

I also want to thank Chairman CONYERS for his helpful suggestions and his support in moving the bill through the Judiciary Committee.

Given the broad bipartisan support this measure enjoys, I am optimistic that we will be able to enact the legislation into law during the course of this Congress.

I hope my colleagues will join with us in enacting into law the Free Flow of Information Act of 2009.

REMEMBERING THE LIFE AND CONTRIBUTIONS OF ROBERT (BOB) NESTA MARLEY

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 11, 2009

Mr. RANGEL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the life and contributions of

Robert (Bob) Nesta Marley and the impact that he has had on the world. This is a man whose music has inspired the world over and whose lyrics began a movement of revolution not just in actions and words but in the core being of individuals and he made his contribution and achieved his wonderful legacy in a short life cut off by cancer at the age of thirty-six. On his birthday on February 6th of this year he would have been only sixty-four.

Bob Marley's humble beginnings in a small town in Jamaica instilled in him an appreciation of the various stations in life and especially that of the most unfortunate. His early life influenced the majority of his music which heralded the strength of the worker and denounced the unfortunate plight of the disenfranchised. Throughout his life Bob Marley strove to create music that would inspire people for generations to come. His music was born in a time of turmoil and heavy racial prejudice throughout the world and his music absorbed the hatred and bigotry only to release lyrics that spoke of reconciliation and harmony.

One of his most celebrated songs, "One Love" is a perfect example of his music that seeks to find the beauty in the midst of darkness. He sings of a nation with "one love" and "one heart" that is united towards the achievement of harmony and peace. This song is rightfully acclaimed as a global anthem and recognized as one of the most influential songs of the 20th century. Bob Marley asks "Let's get together and feel all right, I'm pleading to mankind", and in so doing, he challenges us all to respond to our better selves.

HONORING WILLIAM BERLINER

HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 11, 2009

Ms. WOOLSEY. Madam Speaker, I rise with sadness today to honor a friend of the Petaluma Community, William "Bill" Berliner, who passed away at his home in Petaluma, California, on January 21, 2009.

Bill was a central figure in his adopted community of Petaluma, California, while remaining true to his Chicago roots. After visiting his brother Andy in Petaluma, Bill moved to town in 1973 and noticed the absence of any place serving a good deep-dish pizza, a style invented in Chicago. In 1978 he opened Old Chicago Pizza in the heart of downtown where it has provided locals with an authentic and tasty food in a warm and family-friendly environment.

The restaurant has also provided opportunities for jobs for young people and long-term work for trusted employees. My son Michael worked at Old Chicago as a youth learning his way in the workforce, as did my daughter-in-law Lisa. Happily the restaurant, under the ownership of two employees who have been with the restaurant for well over 20 years, will continue in business.

Bill was active in the Petaluma Downtown Association and supported nonprofits such as the Carousel Fund which assists children battling serious illnesses. He always spoke his mind about the issues of the day in Petaluma, while he continued to root for Chicago sports teams. As a former drag racer and pianist in

a jazz ensemble, Bill used his wide-ranging interests and hands-on style to create a special place and a special spirit for the community.

Madam Speaker, Bill Berliner's passing has left an empty space in our town and in his family. He is survived by twin daughters Angela and Jordana and his mother Clarice Saltiel as well as his brother Andy Berliner. Petaluma will miss Bill's involvement, but we are grateful for his imprint on our community, as well as for the delicious Old Chicago pizza.

TRIBUTE TO JENNIFER PARSONS

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 11, 2009

Mr. LATHAM. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the excellence in education in the 4th Congressional District of Iowa, and to specifically congratulate Jennifer Parsons of Ames Community School District, who earned the National Board Certification—the highest level of certification in the teaching profession.

National Board Certification is a voluntary assessment program designed to recognize and reward great teachers. National Board Certified Teachers (NBCTs) have successfully demonstrated advanced teaching knowledge, skills and practices. Certification is achieved through a rigorous, performance-based assessment that typically takes one to three years to complete. Certification is offered in 25 different subjects, covering 97 percent of the subjects taught in K–12 schools.

I congratulate Jennifer Parsons on her well-deserved certification, and I'm certain that she will continue to touch the lives of many youth in her community. It is a great honor to represent Jennifer in the United States Congress, and I wish her continued success.

INTRODUCTION OF THE NORTHERN ROCKIES ECOSYSTEM PROTECTION ACT (NREPA) OF 2009

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 11, 2009

Mrs. MALONEY. Madam Speaker, today, along with my friend Mr. GRIJALVA, I am pleased to reintroduce the Northern Rockies Ecosystem Protection Act, NREPA, in the 111th Congress.

NREPA differs from traditional state-by-state wilderness bills by offering a variety of designations that work in concert to achieve one goal: the protection of entire functioning ecosystems on federal public lands. These are lands that belong to all American taxpayers, and we have a right and responsibility to protect our precious resources.

First, NREPA protects over 24 million acres of America's premiere roadless lands as wilderness. It also protect the rivers and streams that are the last habitats for many of America's wild trout stocks, by protecting 1800 miles of river and streams as wild and scenic rivers.

Importantly, NREPA emphasizes that all of these wild places are linked together in the most vital ways possible. By protecting natural

biological corridors, NREPA connects the region's core wildlands into a functioning ecological whole. NREPA also creates jobs by putting people to work restoring the land in wildland restoration and recovery areas designated in the bill.

Finally, I want to be very clear about what NREPA doesn't do. NREPA does not impact private landowners. It impacts only federal public lands—lands owned by all Americans.

Some years ago, two NREPA supporters from Manhattan, Montana wrote to me and said "We feel that there is a little ray of hope for the incredible but dwindling wildlands we are so lucky to live near and love." All of us have a responsibility to sustain that hope.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ADAM H. PUTNAM

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 11, 2009

Mr. PUTNAM. Madam Speaker, on Tuesday, February 10, 2009, I was not present for six recorded votes. Had I been present, I would have voted the following way: roll No. 54—"yea"; roll No. 55—"yea"; roll No. 56—"yea"; roll No. 57—"nay"; roll No. 58—"yea"; roll No. 59—"yea."

FREE FLOW OF INFORMATION ACT OF 2009

HON. MIKE PENCE

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 11, 2009

Mr. PENCE. Madam Speaker, in October 2007, the House of Representatives overwhelmingly passed the Free Flow of Information Act, legislation that would provide a qualified privilege to journalists to shield confidential sources from compelled disclosure by a federal court. I am pleased to join over 30 of my colleagues today in reintroducing that same legislation that previously garnered 398 votes here on the House floor. Today, we take up the mantle and renew the push to make this bill law.

I am honored to be joined by my distinguished colleague Congressman RICK BOUCHER, who is such a tireless advocate for the First Amendment. Also, we are pleased to have Chairman CONYERS and Reps. COBLE, WALDEN, BLUNT, GOODLATTE, LOFGREN, WEXLER, YARMUTH and many others as original cosponsors. This is truly a bipartisan issue. It is a First Amendment issue, and I thank these Members for their leadership. They are truly champions for a free press.

Enshrined in the First Amendment are these words: "Congress shall make no law . . . abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press."

As a conservative who believes in limited government, I know the only check on government power in real time is a free and independent press. The Free Flow of Information Act is not about protecting reporters; it is about protecting the public's right to know. Our Founders did not enshrine the freedom of the press in the Constitution because they got good press. And, I am certainly not advocating

a free and independent press because I always get good press.

We all remember when not long ago a confidential source brought to light abuses at the highest levels of government in the long national nightmare of Watergate. History records that W. Mark Felt never would have come forward without the assurance made to him of confidentiality.

But, thirty-plus years later the press cannot make that assurance to sources, and we face the real danger that there may never be another Deep Throat. The protections provided by the Free Flow of Information Act are necessary so that members of the media can bring forward information to the American public without fear of retribution or prosecution.

In recent years, we have famously seen reporters such as Judith Miller jailed and David Ashenfelter, Mark Fainaru-Wada and Lance Williams threatened with jail sentences. They are a few names among many who have been subpoenaed for taking a stand for the First Amendment and refusing to reveal confidential sources.

Compelling reporters to testify, and in particular, compelling them to reveal the identity of their confidential sources, is a detriment to the public interest. Without the promise of confidentiality, many important conduits of information about our government will be shut down. The dissemination of information by the media to the public on matters ranging from the operation of our government to events in our local communities is invaluable to the operation of our democracy. Without the free flow of information from sources to reporters, the public is ill-equipped to make informed decisions.

Thirty-six states and the District of Columbia have various statutes that protect reporters from being compelled to testify or disclose sources and information in court. Thirteen states have protections for reporters as a result of judicial decisions. The Free Flow of Information Act would set national standards similar to those that are in effect in the states.

The Free Flow of Information Act closely follows existing Department of Justice guidelines for issuing subpoenas to members of the news media. It simply makes the guidelines mandatory and provides protection against compelled disclosure of confidential sources. In doing so, this legislation strikes a balance between the public interest in the free flow of information against the public interest in compelling testimony in highly limited circumstances such as situations involving grave risk to national security or imminent threat of bodily harm.

Abraham Lincoln said, "Give the people the facts and the Republic will be saved." The Free Flow of Information Act is designed to ensure that the American people have the facts that they need to make choices as an informed electorate.

A free and independent press is the only agency in America that has complete freedom to hold government accountable. Integrity in government is not a Democratic or Republican issue, and corruption cannot be laid at the feet of one party. When scandal hits either party, any branch of government, or any institution in our society, it wounds our nation.

As a conservative, I believe that concentrations of power should be subject to great scrutiny. The longer I serve in Congress, the more firmly I believe in the wisdom of our Found-

ers—especially as it pertains to the First Amendment and freedom of the press. It is imperative that we preserve the transparency and integrity of American government, and the only way to do that is by preserving a free and independent press.

Thomas Jefferson warned that, "Our liberty cannot be guarded but by the freedom of the press, nor that limited without danger of losing it."

This Congress would be wise to take those words to heart. Now is the time to heed the advice of Mr. Jefferson.

I believe there are bipartisan majorities in the House and Senate sufficient to enact this bill this year. President Obama pledged his support for a federal media shield during his service in the Senate.

With the bipartisan support of my colleagues in Congress and the President, I believe the time has come to stitch this tear in the First Amendment freedom of the press.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 11, 2009

Ms. WOOLSEY. Madam Speaker, on February 10, 2009, I was unavoidably detained and was not able to record my vote for rollcall Nos. 54–56.

Had I been present I would have voted: rollcall No. 54—"yes"—On Motion to Instruct Conferees; rollcall No. 55—"yes"—Supporting the goals and ideals of "National Girls and Women in Sports Day"; rollcall No. 56—"yes"—Recognizing and commending University of Oklahoma quarterback Sam Bradford for winning the 2008 Heisman Trophy and for his academic and athletic accomplishments.

EARMARK REFORM

HON. ADAM H. PUTNAM

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 11, 2009

Mr. PUTNAM. Madam Speaker, on January 28, 2009, I introduced a resolution, H. Res. 100, to amend the Rules of the House of Representatives to provide for earmark reform. The bill that I introduced will not only promote accountability and transparency in Congress, but push its Members in a direction that better serves their constituents.

All too frequently, Congressional spending requests are funding embarrassing and unworthy projects. This institution has lost credibility because earmarks fund "monuments-to-me," bizarre private enterprises, or even projects to subsidize their family. This growing trend is unacceptable and, as guardians of taxpayer dollars, we owe it to the citizens of the United States to be good stewards of their money.

Congressional spending requests deserve to be scrutinized and publicly debated, that is why I introduced this commonsense approach to reform the earmark process. This resolution will prohibit earmarks from being used for non-public entities, except for institutions of higher education. Likewise, this bill will prohibit any earmark for any entity named after an individual serving in Congress, which will eliminate controversial "monuments-to-me."

With regard to Congressional spending requests, proper disclosure of earmarks has come to the forefront of this debate. In an effort to encourage accountability and transparency, this bill will also require Members of the House to disclose earmark requests within 24 hours to the Clerk of the House of Representatives. The Clerk will then be tasked with publicly posting all earmark requests on the website designated for the Office of the Clerk in a uniform and searchable format.

As a reflection of my own principles in government spending, I have also included a provision to require certification that non-federal recipients will provide matching funds of at least 10 percent of the earmark request. Recipients of federal funds are more likely to spend their federal financial support efficiently and effectively if they too have a vested interest in the final project.

Lastly, H. Res. 100 will require that Members requesting earmarked funds certify that no family member is a beneficiary of the funding. This earmark reform measure will bring an end to deplorable family payouts.

Earmark abuse not only wastes taxpayer money, but it also erodes the credibility of this legislative body. It is time for Congress to regain the trust of the American people and bring integrity back to Capitol Hill through substantive earmark reform.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. RUBÉN HINOJOSA

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 11, 2009

Mr. HINOJOSA. Madam Speaker, I regret that I was unavoidably detained yesterday evening. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on rollcall votes 57, 58, and 59.

IN RECOGNITION OF SHELLY O'NEILL STONEMAN

HON. STEVEN R. ROTHMAN

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 11, 2009

Mr. ROTHMAN. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize the outstanding contributions and dedication of my Deputy Chief of Staff, Shelly O'Neill Stoneman, as she leaves my office to work in the Office of Legislative Affairs for President Barack Obama. Shelly served on my staff for more than 5 years, and during that time she advised me expertly on issues of defense and foreign policy. Shelly continuously demonstrated extraordinary intellect, grace under pressure, and the highest ethical and professional standards. Shelly's vast sphere of knowledge and her friendship will genuinely be missed in my office.

Shelly was born in Newport Beach, California, and later moved to Orlando, Florida where she attended Dr. Phillips High School. She attended Vassar College in Poughkeepsie, New York, and graduated with a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science. She has also earned a Master of Arts in National Security Studies from the United States Naval War College, as well as a Master of Arts in International Relations from the University of Oklahoma's Program in Europe.

Prior to joining my office, Shelly worked as an intern in the White House Office of Legislative Affairs in 1997 during the Clinton Administration. This is the same office which Shelly will now be joining as a staffer within the Obama Administration. In 1999, Shelly joined the United States Senate Governmental Affairs Committee's Subcommittee on International Security, Proliferation, and Federal Services under Senator DANIEL AKAKA (D-HI), and later worked as a research consultant for the Small Arms Survey, evaluating the arms export control systems of Central, Eastern, and Southeastern European countries. Her previous experience has served her well and helped make her an extraordinarily effective member of my staff, and I know those same capabilities will serve her well in the White House.

While serving long hours as the brilliant Deputy Chief of Staff for my office, Shelly directed my legislative agenda and staffed me on the House Appropriations Committee's Subcommittee on State and Foreign Operations, as well as the Subcommittee on Defense. In addition to her work within my office, Shelly founded the Democratic Legislative Directors Study Group, a wonderful support and networking system for Democratic senior staff on Capitol Hill.

Madam Speaker, over the past 5 years, my office has come to know Shelly O'Neill Stoneman well and we will remember her as a conscientious and dedicated colleague, a gifted writer, and a loyal friend to her fellow coworkers. Shelly is a passionate advocate for the protection of human rights and international aid, and has used her well-honed skills as a policy-maker to help ensure that these vital aspects of United States foreign policy are maintained. Throughout her tenure with my office, Shelly provided me with thoughtful and accurate counsel, which has allowed me to better serve the people of New Jersey's Ninth District. She is now, and forever, an honorary "Jersey Girl", and has my deep respect and appreciation for all of the contributions she has made to my office and the work she has done. While I will miss her dearly, I wish Shelly the very best and know that she has a bright future ahead of her. The White House is lucky to have her.

INTRODUCTION OF THE CONSUMER FAIRNESS ACT OF 2009

HON. LUIS V. GUTIERREZ

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 11, 2009

Mr. GUTIERREZ. Madam Speaker, I rise today to announce the introduction of my bill, the Consumer Fairness Act of 2009. In the last decade, too many of our nation's consumers have been subjected to abusive payday lending and increasingly relied on high-cost credit cards and predatory mortgage loans. To make matters worse, a consumer's ability to fight back against predatory lenders or to challenge unfair credit card fees and rates has been severely constrained by consumer contracts that require binding, mandatory arbitration to settle disputes between the borrower and the lender. We cannot allow these unfair practices to compound our economic challenges.

Mandatory arbitration clauses undermine existing consumer protections. They prohibit class action lawsuits by requiring consumers to waive their right to access a court of law and by forcing them into an arbitration system that has been set up for the benefit and expediency of corporate America. In many cases, individual consumers are required to pay thousands of dollars in arbitration fees that they cannot afford before their case is even heard. If this strikes my colleagues as unfair, then I ask them to support my bill, the Consumer Fairness Act of 2009.

The Consumer Fairness Act of 2009 would prohibit binding arbitration clauses in any consumer contract by recognizing these clauses as an unfair and deceptive trade practice. This legislation will help to level the playing field in the fight against predatory lending practices by giving consumers access to the courts and to class action lawsuits in order to address these unfair practices in an environment free of bias. When our constituents suffer through the worst recession in decades, the very least we can do is to give them a fair environment to defend themselves against predatory practices.

TRIBUTE TO HAMILTON COUNTY, NEBRASKA

HON. ADRIAN SMITH

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 11, 2009

Mr. SMITH of Nebraska. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Hamilton County, Nebraska, for being named Progressive Farmer's Best Place to Raise a Family.

Anyone who has ever visited Nebraska has seen first hand it is a wonderful place to raise a family. It looks like the message is getting out.

Founded in 1867 and named after the first Secretary of the Treasury Alexander Hamilton, and anchored by the city of Aurora, this area of my district truly lives up to the moniker "The Good Life."

This designation wasn't an accident. Hamilton County is a strong community of people who care for each other, who help out during hard times, and who live up to the benchmarks set by our forefathers.

So, congratulations to the good people of Hamilton County for representing Nebraska and making us proud.

HONORING MARTIN DELANEY

HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 11, 2009

Ms. WOOLSEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Martin Delaney who passed away in his home in San Rafael, California, on January 23, 2009, of liver cancer. Mr. Delaney, who was 63, was a leader in AIDS activism, especially the movement to represent the needs of HIV patients in the drug approval process.

Although not HIV positive himself, Martin's experience with experimental treatments for his Hepatitis B infection and his dismay at the

devastating spread of AIDS (including the death of his partner), led him to found Project Inform in 1985. Based in San Francisco, Project Inform soon became the leading national advocacy organization focusing on ensuring that promising anti-retroviral medications reached patients quickly and expeditiously. He worked with government officials to develop accelerated approval for the drugs as well as to implement policies ensuring that those most seriously ill had access to treatments before approval.

Martin served as the director of Project Inform until 2008 and also led the Fair Pricing Coalition which negotiates affordable rates for HIV medications with the industry. He dedicated himself to educating and shaping public policy as well, working with everyone from AIDS patients to research scientists to government officials. He is credited with saving thousands of lives.

For his work, Martin was recently given the Director's Special Recognition Award from the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, a division of the National Institutes of Health. The award was for "extraordinary contributions to framing the HIV research agenda," and the Institute's Director, Dr. Anthony S. Faud, M.D. stated that Martin "is a formidable activist and a dear friend. It is without hyperbole that I call Marty Delaney a public health hero."

Madam Speaker, Martin Delaney is truly a hero. He not only saved lives; he also forged a path with his heart, his head, and his conviction that he could take action to fight the suffering he witnessed. I join people all over this country in mourning his passing.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO A LEADER IN
NEW YORK STATE POLITICS AND
JOURNALISM: M. PAUL REDD

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 11, 2009

Mr. RANGEL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a fixture in New York State politics and journalism, M. Paul Redd—the strong-willed publisher of the country's only black-owned newspaper, the Westchester County Press. The weekly celebrated its 80th anniversary last year, just a few months prior to the passing of its longtime publisher and muse. Redd was an African American leader whose foray into journalism and politics made him a premier advocate for equality and fairness. With a seriousness of purpose, outpouring of passion, and great eloquence, he and his paper prodded politicians towards responsible, progressive stances and held them accountable to the people and communities they served. He traversed the world of media and public service, blurring the line that separates them and serving as vice chairman of the state Democratic Party for a number of years.

A voice—when as clear, cogent, and powerful as his was—cannot be silenced, even in death, as the following WVOX radio tribute titled "M. Paul Redd Dies Suddenly" makes clear. He will continue to reverberate and resound in the minds of those he touched, in the words of those he influenced, in the work we public servants have yet to do for our constituencies, our state, and our country.

M. PAUL REDD DIES SUDDENLY

One of Westchester's most prominent and durable African-American leaders has died.

Word came within the hour from the office of NYS Assemblyman George Latimer that M. Paul Redd died suddenly last night of a massive heart attack. He was in his mid-80's.

Paul Redd published the Westchester County Press which last month at Manhattanville College celebrated its 80th anniversary as the county's only black-owned newspaper.

Paul Redd purchased the weekly many years ago from the late Dr. Alger Adams. In addition to his publishing activities . . . M. Paul Redd was very active in New York State and Westchester politics serving as Vice Chairman of the State Democratic Party for many years. He was married to political activist Oriah Redd and their daughter Paula Redd Zeeman is the County's Director of Human Resources.

He was also a fixture at many WVOX broadcasts. For almost 40 years, Mr. Redd attended this station's St. Patrick's Day salute broadcasts. (WVOX is dedicating this year's broadcast to Mr. Redd).

One of the features of his newspaper—the Westchester County Press—was the "Snoopy Allgood" column which tweaked politicians in a good natured, if occasionally pointed, way. Mr. Redd never revealed who actually wrote those Snoopy Allgood columns.

He was also a frequent guest on our radio and tv talk shows and discussion programs.

STATEMENT OF WILLIAM O'SHAUGHNESSY

The legendary publisher Roy Howard used to say: "You can't have a great newspaper unless you have one man or woman who has something to say."

Paul Redd had a lot of things to say . . . and he said them passionately, clearly and with great eloquence.

His Westchester weekly had influence far beyond its circulation area . . . mostly because of that one man.

He went all the way back in this county to the time of Bill Luddy . . . Max Berking . . . Sam Fredman . . . Mario Cuomo . . . Al DelBello . . . Miriam Jackson . . . Andy O'Rourke . . . John Flynn . . . Edwin Gilbert Michaelian . . . Ossie Davis . . . Malcolm Wilson . . . Richard Ottinger . . . Joe Shannon . . . Napoleon Holmes . . . Milt Hoffmann . . . Paul Dennis . . . Whitney Young . . . Hugh Price . . . Guido Cribari . . . Nancy Q. Keefe . . . Ogden Reid . . . Vinnie Rippa . . . Tony Gioffre . . . Dennis Mehiel . . . Franklyn Richardson . . . Dr. Lester Cousin . . . Anthony J. Colavita . . . Bobby & Jack Kennedy . . . Ernie Davis . . . Ed Brady . . . Jack Javits . . . Vin Draddy . . . Bill Butcher . . . Fred Powers . . . Brother Jack Driscoll . . . Al Sulla . . . Tony Veteran . . . Francis X. O'Rourke . . . Wellington Mara . . . B.J. Harrington . . . William Congdon . . . Alvin Richard Ruskin . . . Angelo Martinelli . . . Bob Abplanalp . . . Kirby Scollon . . . Ed Hughes . . . Daniel Patrick Moynihan . . . Hugh Carey . . . and our magnificent neighbor Nelson Aldrich Rockefeller.

He amplified all their voices.

And we will miss his . . .

STATEMENT OF GOVERNOR MARIO M. CUOMO

I've just learned of Paul Redd's passing . . . and I am saddened by it.

Paul Redd had an awful lot of strength . . . and a whole lot of strong opinions. He had a strong voice, and a strong will that inspired him to use that voice . . . speaking the truth, and spreading it, as he saw it . . . about politics, about politicians . . . and even beyond, whether politicians liked it or not.

He was a proud owner of the only Black newspaper in the county . . . for . . . I think it was . . . eighty years.

And he spoke in that paper all he could on all these truths. And in doing it . . . the color of what he was saying was not black . . . it wasn't white . . . and it certainly wasn't yellow, as in "yellow journalism."

The color of what he was saying and writing and believing was red, white and blue . . . as American as it could be.

It really was as basic as red, white and blue . . . because what he was talking about . . . all the time . . . was equality and fairness . . . the same thing Lincoln talked about . . . and the same thing the Declaration of Independence talks about.

We're going to miss him.

IRAN CONTINUES SYSTEMATIC
PERSECUTION OF BAHAI'S

HON. FRANK R. WOLF

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 11, 2009

Mr. WOLF. Madam Speaker, I would like to bring to my colleagues' attention some deeply disturbing news coming out of Tehran. Tehran's deputy prosecutor recently announced that the revolutionary court will hear the cases of seven members of the Baha'i faith accused of spying for Israel. The continued systematic persecution of the Baha'is by the tyrannical government of President Mahmud Ahmadinejad is unacceptable and must stop. I ask that a report from the Agence France Press be inserted into the RECORD, as well.

IRAN TO TRY BAHAI'S FOR SPYING FOR ISRAEL

TEHRAN (AFP)—Iran will soon try seven members of the banned Bahai religion on charges including "espionage for Israel," the ISNA news agency reported on Wednesday.

"The charges against seven defendants in the case of the illegal Bahai group were examined . . . and the case will be sent to the revolutionary court next week," deputy Tehran prosecutor Hassan Haddad was quoted as saying.

Haddad said the charges included "espionage for Israel, insulting religious sanctities and propaganda against the Islamic republic."

Iran and Israel are arch-enemies, and Iranian President Mahmud Ahmadinejad has repeatedly called for the Jewish state to be wiped off the map.

In late January, judiciary spokesman Ali Reza Jamshidi said Iran had arrested six adherents of the Bahai faith on the same charges.

Earlier last month, the Fars news agency said the ex-secretary of Nobel laureate Shirin Ebadi's office was detained for links with an organization of the Bahai faith, adding that the ex-staffer was a Bahai herself.

Haddad did not say if the seven being charged were the same as those arrested in January.

Followers of the Bahai faith, founded in Iran in 1863, are regarded as infidels and have suffered persecution both before and after the 1979 Islamic revolution.

Bahai teachings emphasize the underlying unity of major religions, with history having produced a succession of divine messengers, each of which founded a religion suitable for the times.

Bahais consider Bahauallah, born in 1817, to be the last prophet sent by God. This is in direct conflict with Islam, the religion of the vast majority of Iranians, which considers Mohammed to be the last prophet.

In late 2008, Iran reported the hanging of a Bahai man for rape and adultery.

The European Union has expressed “serious concern about the continuing systematic discrimination and harassment of the Iranian Bahais on the grounds of their religion.”

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MICHELE BACHMANN

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 11, 2009

Mrs. BACHMANN. Madam Speaker, I was detained and unable to cast a vote for rollcall vote No. 57, the motion to table the privileged resolution, H. Res. 143. I would have voted “nay” on that motion.

A TRIBUTE IN HONOR OF THE SALESIAN SISTERS OF ST. JOHN BOSCO ON THE OCCASION OF THEIR 100 YEARS OF SERVICE TO YOUTH IN THE UNITED STATES

HON. LUCILLE ROYBAL-ALLARD

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 11, 2009

Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the Salesian Sisters of St. John Bosco for their 100 years of dedicated service to young people across the country, and particularly in our communities of Boyle Heights, Bellflower and Bell Gardens in the 34th Congressional District of California.

The Salesian Sisters, also known as the Daughters of Mary Help of Christians, were founded by one of the great Italian educators of the 19th century, Saint John Bosco, with the collaboration of Saint Mary Domenica Mazzarello. During that time, Northern Italy was becoming increasingly industrialized and

both of these religious leaders recognized the great need to establish schools for the disadvantaged, as well as the many abandoned youth in working class communities.

The history of the Salesian Sisters in this country begins in July of 1908 when four Sisters made the voyage from Northern Italy to the United States, setting out to replicate the good work they had accomplished in Italy. Like millions of others who emigrated to our shores at that time, the Sisters arrived at Ellis Island in the port of New York. Knowing no English and with limited resources, these pioneering women made a living taking in orders of sewing and embroidery while ministering to the Italian immigrants at St. Michael's parish in Paterson, New Jersey.

Gradually, the Sisters began to broaden their work in this country by opening an orphanage and a small school. As more and more young women joined the Sisterhood, the reach of their mission expanded to New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, and Florida. In time, the Sisters opened centers in other parts of the country, including Louisiana, Texas, Colorado, Arizona, and California.

In 1921, the first Salesian Sisters arrived in California where they took over the care of an orphanage and, later, the care of the boys in the junior seminary operated by the Salesian Fathers and Brothers in the Central Coast area of California. They eventually established several schools throughout the state, and in 1950, the Sisters opened St. Margaret Mary School in Lomita in Southern California.

In the 34th Congressional District, the first educational center established by the Sisters was St. Dominic Savio School in Bellflower, opened in 1956. By 1960, the nearby aerospace plant employed thousands of workers—many of them school parents—and the school population was at a maximum. When the plant closed, many families relocated. The local population was replaced by different ethnic groups, making the area today one of the most diverse in the United States. The school

adapted well to the demographic changes, and continues to thrive today serving the spiritual and educational needs of the community.

Another school in the 34th District administered by the Salesian Sisters is St. Mary's Catholic School in Boyle Heights. St. Mary's was established in 1907 by the Holy Name Sisters. During that time, Boyle Heights became highly industrialized and many people moved in from various countries seeking new opportunities. After World War II, much of the non-Latino population moved to outlying areas, and the community became increasingly populated by Mexican immigrants. By 1990, school enrollment at St. Mary's dropped significantly and the Holy Name Sisters could no longer provide personnel for the school. The Salesian Sisters were then asked to take over the school, and they have been there to this day.

The Salesian Sisters also operated St. Gertrude's School in Bell Gardens in the 34th District for 30 years.

Madam Speaker, on a personal note, I attended St. Mary's Catholic School prior to the coming of the Salesian Sisters, and I am very pleased the school continues to serve local youth today under the Sisters' devoted guidance. I might also add that my father, the late Congressman Edward R. Roybal, was a committed supporter of Salesian schools. He was instrumental in helping establish the Bishop Mora Salesian High School for young men in Boyle Heights, which many area boys attend today following their 8th grade graduation from St. Mary's.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to please join me in honoring the noble mission of the Salesian Sisters in the United States in educating our youth over the past 100 years, and I extend to all of them my fondest wishes for many more years of dedicated service.

SENATE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Title IV of Senate Resolution 4, agreed to by the Senate on February 4, 1977, calls for establishment of a system for a computerized schedule of all meetings and hearings of Senate committees, subcommittees, joint committees, and committees of conference. This title requires all such committees to notify the Office of the Senate Daily Digest—designated by the Rules Committee—of the time, place, and purpose of the meetings, when scheduled, and any cancellations or changes in the meetings as they occur.

As an additional procedure along with the computerization of this information, the Office of the Senate Daily Digest will prepare this information for printing in the Extensions of Remarks section of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD on Monday and Wednesday of each week.

Meetings scheduled for Thursday, February 12, 2009 may be found in the Daily Digest of today's RECORD.

MEETINGS SCHEDULED

FEBRUARY 24

10 a.m.
Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs
To hold hearings to examine the semi-annual monetary policy report to the Congress.

SH-216

2 p.m.
Veterans' Affairs
To hold joint hearings to examine the legislative presentation of the Disabled American Veterans.

345, Cannon Building

FEBRUARY 25

10 a.m.
Judiciary
To hold hearings to examine ensuring television carriage in the digital age.

SD-226

FEBRUARY 26

2:15 p.m.
Energy and Natural Resources
To hold hearings to examine recommendations for reducing energy consumption in buildings through improved implementation of authorized

Department of Energy (DOE) programs and through other innovative federal energy efficiency policies and programs.

SD-366

MARCH 5

10 a.m.
Veterans' Affairs
To hold joint hearings to examine the legislative presentations of veterans' service organizations.

SD-106

MARCH 12

10 a.m.
Veterans' Affairs
To hold joint hearings to examine legislative presentations of veterans' service organizations.

SD-106

MARCH 18

9:30 a.m.
Veterans' Affairs
To hold joint hearings to examine the legislative presentation of the Veterans of Foreign Wars.

334, Cannon Building